Suspension of police officers during Goa elections

808. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of police officers suspended by the Election Commission of India during the recently held Assembly elections in Goa;

(b) the reasons given for the suspension in each of these cases;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government of Goa has come to a conclusion that there was no justification in suspension of officers concerned;

(d) the period during which the powers of suspension of officers on election duty is vested in the Commission;

(e) whether the suspension of these officers has been revoked; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India has intimated that two police officers were placed under suspension *w.e.f.* the 20th May, 2007, by the Government of Goa on the recommendations of the Election Commission, pending disciplinary proceedings against them for serious misconduct.

(c) The requisite information for answering the question is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Election Commission's power in this regard is restricted up to suspensions of any officer/official/police personnel for insubordination or dereliction of duty. The further disciplinary proceedings will be done by the Union Government or the concerned State Government as the case may be, on a recommendation in this regard made by the Election Commission.

(e) and (f) The requisite information for answering the question is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Resignation by MPs before election for other posts

809. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take effective steps regarding implementing the obligation of giving resignation from his/her membership before nominating any Member of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha to another elected post;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Member of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha on being nominated to another elected post is governed by the provisions of the Constitution and other law depending on the nature of the elected post.

Transfer of regulatory offences to regulatory authorities

810. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laws like Essential Commodities Act, Excise Acts passed by the State Legislatures; Arms Acts, Mines Acts, Food Adulteration Act, Motor Vehicles Act and the like are basically regulatory in nature, and the offences relate to infringement of regulations only;

(b) whether the regulatory authorities are competent enough to deal with the regulatory offences and would dispose off the cases expeditiously;

(c) whether transfer of such cases to the regulatory authorities would greatly reduce the burden of the courts;

(d) whether Government had initiated such a move in 1987-88; and

(e) if so, whether Government would consider entrusting the powers to regulatory authorities in the States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Beneficiaries under ICDS

811. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the outcome Budget presented to the Parliament informs that 24 per cent of beneficiaries under ICDS are from SCs and STs categories;

(b) if so, whether Government would provide the disaggregated figure, State-wise for SCs and STs; and

(c) the details of the proportionate amount spent on them in comparison to the budgetary allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Outcome Budget for the year 2006-07 states that as per information received from 23 States, 24 per cent of the ICDS beneficiaries belong to SC/ST categories. As per the Outcome Budget 2007-08, over 41 per cent of ICDS beneficiaries belong to SC/ST categories.

(b) The information has been further updated and State-wise disaggregated data on SC/ST beneficiaries is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Information on expenditure for the SC/ST beneficiaries is not captured separately.